

APPENDIX No. 4

selling timber in British Columbia, immediately reflected in a decreased revenue. The problem always is to secure a satisfactory natural reproduction of timber without imposing undue burdens on the logging industry, and without unnecessarily reducing the Government revenue. It is a duty to provide for the regeneration of the forest, but it is a duty to secure this result economically. Fortunately, our experience has been that in British Columbia, in almost all regions, clean logging, followed by slash burning, will be followed by an excellent thrifty crop of young trees.

Q. A second crop of the same kind of timber?—A. Speaking generally, yes. In the Douglas fir belt, where probably two-thirds of the timber in British Columbia is now cut, the original mixture of timber is Douglas fir, cedar and hemlock, with a little spruce, white pine and balsam. These are the important trees. After logging and slash burning here the second crop is usually Douglas fir.

Q. What does Douglas fir compare to in Ontario?—A. There is no tree in Ontario resembling Douglas fir in appearance or in the qualities of its timbers. It is as important commercially in British Columbia as white pine is in Ontario. Douglas fir is the largest tree in Canada, and is the only species which can be depended upon to produce dimension of construction timbers for use where strength and durability are required. Douglas fir lumber has been so effectively used on the Pacific coast in the furnishings of dwellings and offices that it may confidently be expected to find an extensive market in the interior furnishing of the better class buildings in eastern Canada.

By the Chairman:

Q. How far advanced are any of these second growths of timber?—A. You see in a great many places in the province, where fire has followed old logging operations of many years ago, fine thick young forests about twenty or thirty feet in height, and about as many years old.

Q. What does your Government do towards protecting that timber?—A. The greater value of the mature timber demands that it be given first care. The young second growth, which on old logging operations and on old burns covers many millions of acres and gives promise for a great timber, lumber and pulp industry in the future, is not neglected. The same laws which protect the virgin forest protect the young growth. The officers enforcing the law, the district foresters, rangers, forest guards and patrolmen, are almost as careful to guard against fire in young growth as in mature timber.

There are two reasons for this policy of protecting young timber. One is that no fire anywhere in forest land can safely be neglected. It may start in young growth and sweep into merchantable timber. The other and more important reason is the value of the young timber itself. Other countries have gone to great expense in planting young trees to protect watersheds and produce future timber crops. In British Columbia nature is planting these young trees without expense to the public. Protection from fire alone is necessary to ensure that a valuable forest will perpetually cover the mountains, protecting the waterflow and supporting many industries.

Q. After about thirty years the height of the timber is about thirty feet?—A. The timber will be, roughly speaking, about that height. For the first few years the rate of growth for a Douglas fir on the coast is a foot a year. The rate of growth, however, varies as in the case of agricultural crops, because the soil and the climate affect the growth of timber very greatly.

As you know, the Dominion Government has adopted a very progressive policy of examining vacant public lands in advance of settlement, in order that the land which is manifestly unsuitable for any form of agriculture may be withheld from settlement. The benefits of this policy are two-fold. The new settler, unacquainted with conditions in a pioneer country, is prevented from settling on worthless land where he will lose his